

# *Sketch*

---

*Volume 46, Number 1*

1980

*Article 23*

---

## China Doll

Susan E. Hagen\*

\*Iowa State University

Copyright ©1980 by the authors. *Sketch* is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).  
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/sketch>

# CHINA DOLL

by

*Susan E. Hagen*

*Advertising Design Sophomore*

I cringed from her taunting smile;  
Her laughter ringing silently in my ears.  
I wanted to leave,  
But as I stared at her laughing, painted face,  
and into the glassy stare of her eyes,  
I saw something familiar, compelling me to stay.  
I tried to look deeper,  
past her frozen expression.  
But still I couldn't recognize it.  
So I reached out my hand,  
to touch her,  
to find something real  
beneath her cool exterior.  
But as my fingers touched her smooth skin,  
she was gone.  
And all that remained,  
were a few pieces of broken porcelain.  
So now,  
I looked to see what lay behind her fixed, smiling face.  
And it scared me.  
For there was nothing there  
and I now saw  
why she had looked so familiar;  
It was I  
I'd seen,  
And I am the china doll.